

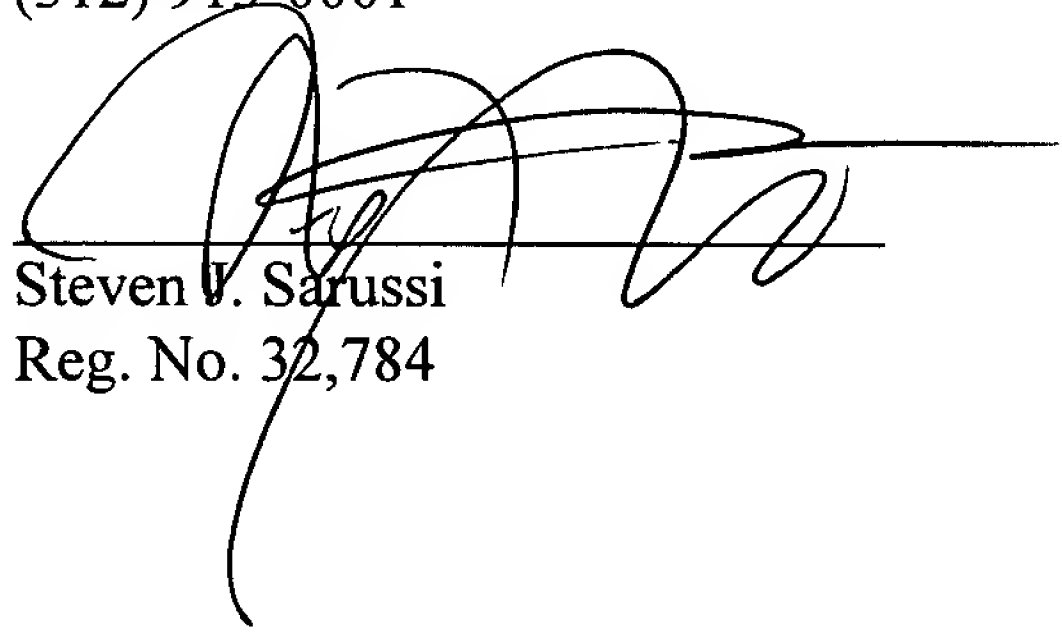
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2) the undersigned certifies that no item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the undersigned's knowledge after reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the IDS was known to any individual more than three months prior to the filing of the IDS.

In accordance with MPEP Sections 609 and 707.05(b), it is requested the document cited (including any cited in applicant's specification which is not repeated on the attached Form PTO-1449) be given thorough consideration and that it be cited of record in the prosecution history of the present application by initialing on Form PTO-1449. Such initialing is requested even if the Examiner does not consider a cited document to be sufficiently pertinent to use in a rejection, or otherwise does not consider it to be prior art for any reason, or even if the Examiner does not believe that the guidelines for citation have been fully complied with. This is requested so that each document becomes listed on the face of the patent issuing on the present application

Respectfully submitted
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Dated: October 2, 2001

By:


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